

Triage for NEPA Environmental Assessments (EA)

The NEPA program completes the following actions:

- EA's where EPA is a cooperating agency, we utilize the CAA Section 309 guidance. The projects are normally significant projects with political implications.
- Presently, we are reviewing all environmental assessments (EA) sent to EPA via postal service or electronically, and responding with comments as appropriate.
- For EAs/SIRs prepared by EPA, we sometimes request funds from OFA. We often provide guidance; assist with preparing statement of work; assist with the preparation of the EA; and use the regional media specialists to review the draft EA. We complete these tasks when the program office make us aware of the project and/or request our assistance.
- For projects that are not formally submitted to the NEPA office, such as those received by program offices, sent by environmental organizations, or found on agency websites, we triage as follows:
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 - look at scope of the project
 - if project impacts waters of the US - forward to 6WQ - discuss with lead agency
 - if impact to pristine lands - forwarded to all impacted media - discuss with lead agency
 - if there are EJ issues - forward to 6RADT - discuss with lead agency
 - if no significant issues, the project is added to NEPA Tracking and there is no further action
 - if there are significant impacts to the environment a formal comment letter is prepared.